

Appendix H
Glossary of Technical Terms

Nearshore

The river mouth estuaries, shoreline reaches and their adjacent upland areas (e.g., to the top of the bluff) and shallow waters (e.g., to the depth of light penetration sufficient for plant or macroalgae growth).

Marine

Deeper waters of Puget Sound and the North Pacific Ocean

Working Hypotheses

A collection of component hypotheses – a set of key assumptions that are based on assessment of data and analysis

Conceptual model

An arrangement of assumptions and hypotheses that allow organization of how systems work and how relationships are formed between processes and outcomes

Life History Strategy

The behavioral attribute of randomly selecting a number of different pathways to utilize habitats across the landscape throughout life

Life History Trajectory

The likely progression from one location to another along the landscape for any particular pathway

Life History Stage

An arbitrary classification relevant to the age or size of a salmon

Life History Diversity

The number of life history stages occupying the landscape at any given time.

Drift Cell

A distinct unit of shoreline responding to localized sediment transport processes. A drift cell generally has erosional, transport and depositional sectors.

Ramp

A shoreline modification structure used to launch boats across the intertidal zone

Overwater structure

Category of shoreline modification generally including piers, docks, wharves, dolphins, etc

Restoration

Taking actions consistent with a conceptual model to restore structure, processes or functions of the landscape

Regional

Puget Sound-wide including all 11 sub-basins

Local

Watershed or sub-basin wide

Ecosystem processes

The delivery and routing of water, sediment, wood, heat, nutrients and toxicants that along with the biological inhabitants, creates and sustains aquatic ecosystem structure and function at any particular time.

Typology

A classification of geomorphic features on the landscape expressed as manifestations of ecosystem processes

Functions

Physical, chemical and biological conditions necessary for sustaining the lives of species using the ecosystem.

Structural Features

The arrangement of water, sediment, wood, heat, nutrients and toxicants and biological organisms delivered by ecosystem processes to a particular location.

Habitat Attributes

Specific structural features relevant for any particular species

Estuary

A semi-enclosed body of water where saltwater and freshwater mix

Pocket estuaries

Small scale estuaries located at the mouths of streams and small rivers and other semi-enclosed embayments within Puget Sound that have a tidal channel structure, intertidal marsh and/or mudflats, eelgrass beds and other features typical of larger estuaries.

Delta

The feature associated with the mouths of large rivers into Puget Sound. Deltas normally have multiple river distributary channels, blind tidal channels, marshes and mudflats that cover large areas of the landscape. For this chapter deltas are defined as associated with rivers that have natal populations of Chinook salmon.

Shoreline

The linear feature generally associated with the mean higher high water mark and adjacent features such as beaches, backshores and bluffs

Quantitative

Having some measurable component such as miles of shoreline, acres of mudflats or numbers of fish.

Qualitative

Having a relationship with a conceptual model or hypothesis that is predictive in direction but not magnitude or can be explained in narrative form

Stressors

Anthropogenic activity that interrupts ecosystem processes

Primary Productivity

Production by plants that result in organic compounds that supply energy for the food web

Secondary Productivity

Growth of consumers of organic compounds produced by primary